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**Consumer Price Index
Cleveland-Akron, Ohio CMSA
July 2002**

The Cleveland-Akron, OH Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.2 percent from May to July, according to a report issued today by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The July All Items CPI-U for the Cleveland-Akron area stood at 173.4 (1982-84=100). Over the past year, Cleveland-Akron area retail price inflation, as measured by the CPI-U, was unchanged. During the same period in 2001, Cleveland-Akron prices rose 3.0 percent.

Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein stated that much of the latest bimonthly increase was attributed to a seasonal increase in electricity costs. As a result, energy costs jumped 4.9 percent over the two-month period. Holding energy costs constant, the Cleveland area CPI-U would have declined 0.1 percent over the period. Gains in the shelter index and in the components for medical care, recreation, education and communication, and other goods and services also contributed to the small overall gain. A large drop in the apparel component and smaller declines in food and beverages, and transportation costs, partially offset these advances.

Table A. Percent Changes in the CPI-U for the Cleveland-Akron, OH CMSA
(not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure Category	Percent changes from 2 months ago							12 mo. ended July '02
	2001			2002				
	July	Sept.	Nov.	Jan.	Mar.	May	July	
All items	-0.2	0.7	-1.3	-0.5	1.3	-0.4	0.2	0.0
Food & beverages	.5	.4	.7	1.4	-.4	-.1	-.3	1.6
Housing	1.0	-1.5	-1.6	.2	2.3	-2.1	1.6	-1.2
Apparel	-3.6	10.7	-1.8	-11.2	6.6	2.6	-11.2	-6.2
Transportation	-5.2	4.0	-3.9	-.9	.9	2.0	-.5	1.5
Medical care	.5	.4	.3	.1	.5	.0	.9	2.2
Recreation	.4	.3	.2	-2.9	.5	.1	.2	-1.7
Education & communications	.6	1.6	.4	-.1	-.3	-.6	1.0	2.0
Other goods & services	8.3	-.3	-.4	.3	.1	.3	2.7	2.7

The housing component rose 1.6 percent during this bimonthly period led by a 21.0 percent hike in electricity costs as utilities moved to higher summer rates. This gain was above May-July increases averaging 18.4 percent since 1996. Higher shelter and household furnishings and operations costs were also a factor, gaining 0.5 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively. The utility natural gas index was unchanged. For the year, the housing component was down 1.2 percent following a 4.7 percent gain in the previous 12-month period. Electricity costs were down 0.3 percent and utility natural gas service costs were 46.7 percent lower. The household furnishings and operations index was 3.0 percent lower for the year. The 4.8 percent advance in shelter costs partially offset these declines.

Rising cigarette prices pushed the other goods and services component 2.7 percent higher than in May of this year. On an annual basis, the other goods and services component was up 2.7 percent after jumping 11.9 percent during the previous annual period (July 2000-2001).

The medical care component moved up 0.9 percent between May and July. For the latest 12-months, medical care costs were up 2.2 percent following annual increases of 2.5 percent in 2001 and 3.7 percent in 2000.

The education and communications component jumped 1.0 percent during the bimonthly period due, in part, to higher postage and delivery prices and higher elementary and high school tuition and fees. For the 12 months, education and communications costs were 2.0 percent higher.

The recreation component rose 0.2 percent between May and July, but was 1.7 percent below its level a year ago. In the prior annual period, July 2000-2001, recreation costs rose 1.5 percent.

The apparel component slid 11.2 percent during this bimonthly period, following average declines of 5.2 percent recorded during the four prior May-July periods. For the year, apparel prices were 6.2 percent lower. The annual decline follows a 3.2 percent increase during the same July-July period in 2001.

A 1.6 percent decline in gasoline prices pushed the transportation component down 0.5 percent between May and July. However, compared to a year ago, transportation cost were 1.5 percent higher as prices at the gasoline pump jumped 12.1 percent from their year ago July levels. This annual gain in transportation costs followed a 0.5 percent decline in the prior 12-month period ended in July 2001.

The component for food and beverages dropped 0.3 percent during the bimonthly period. The food at home index (grocery food items) fell 1.0 percent while the food away from home index rose 0.9 percent. Prices for alcoholic beverages slid 3.2 percent. The overall food and beverages component stood 1.6 percent higher than 12-months ago, following a 2.2 percent rise during the same period in 2001.

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Scheduled release date for the August 2002 CPI:
Wednesday, September 18, 2002

CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Cleveland area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI Hotline service. This recorded message also provides percent changes from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Cleveland is (216) 522-3852.

BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 200 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 30 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880, select menu option 1, and when prompted, order document 1000.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain an U.S. City average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 26 local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities, they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) which equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: The price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the BLS Handbook of Methods, Bulletin 2490, April 1997, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Cleveland-Akron, OH (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	May 2002	June 2002	July 2002	July 2001	May 2002	June 2002
Expenditure category						
All items	173.0	-	173.4	0.0	0.2	-
All items (1967=100)	554.5	-	555.7	-	-	-
Food and beverages	179.8	-	179.2	1.6	-3	-
Food	182.0	-	181.7	1.8	-2	-
Food at home	176.7	177.6	175.0	1.3	-1.0	-1.5
Food away from home	192.7	-	194.5	2.2	.9	-
Alcoholic beverages	157.7	-	152.6	-1.1	-3.2	-
Housing	170.7	-	173.4	-1.2	1.6	-
Shelter	200.6	201.9	201.7	4.8	.5	-1
Rent of primary residence ¹	189.9	190.2	190.5	3.6	.3	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	197.8	198.5	198.9	4.8	.6	.2
Fuels and utilities	124.4	-	135.0	-22.4	8.5	-
Fuels	114.9	127.4	127.4	-26.4	10.9	.0
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	116.2	129.1	129.1	-26.9	11.1	.0
Electricity ¹	125.2	151.5	151.5	-.3	21.0	.0
Utility natural gas service ¹	110.2	110.2	110.2	-46.7	.0	.0
Household furnishings and operations	124.7	-	127.1	-3.0	1.9	-
Apparel	124.4	-	110.5	-6.2	-11.2	-
Transportation	154.1	-	153.4	1.5	-.5	-
Private transportation	154.3	-	153.7	1.9	-.4	-
Motor fuel	142.5	138.6	140.2	12.0	-1.6	1.2
Gasoline (all types)	141.4	137.6	139.1	12.1	-1.6	1.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	138.6	132.7	135.3	9.8	-2.4	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	144.9	141.6	142.8	12.9	-1.4	.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	142.1	139.2	140.3	10.9	-1.3	.8
Medical care	243.6	-	245.7	2.2	.9	-
Recreation ⁵	100.0	-	100.2	-1.7	.2	-
Education and communication ⁵	101.5	-	102.5	2.0	1.0	-
Other goods and services	275.3	-	282.6	2.7	2.7	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	173.0	-	173.4	.0	.2	-
Commodities	154.0	-	152.2	-.2	-1.2	-
Commodities less food and beverages	138.6	-	136.3	-1.3	-1.7	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	153.6	-	149.5	.4	-2.7	-
Durables	117.6	-	117.0	-2.9	-.5	-
Services	193.1	-	195.5	.2	1.2	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	169.6	-	169.9	-.1	.2	-
All items less shelter	164.0	-	164.2	-1.9	.1	-
Commodities less food	139.3	-	137.0	-1.2	-1.7	-
Nondurables	167.2	-	164.8	1.0	-1.4	-
Nondurables less food	153.3	-	149.2	.3	-2.7	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	189.0	-	192.7	-4.0	2.0	-
Services less medical care services	189.4	-	191.8	.1	1.3	-
Energy	126.3	131.8	132.5	-13.7	4.9	.5
All items less energy	179.8	-	179.7	1.5	-.1	-
All items less food and energy	179.3	-	179.1	1.5	-.1	-

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

² Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.